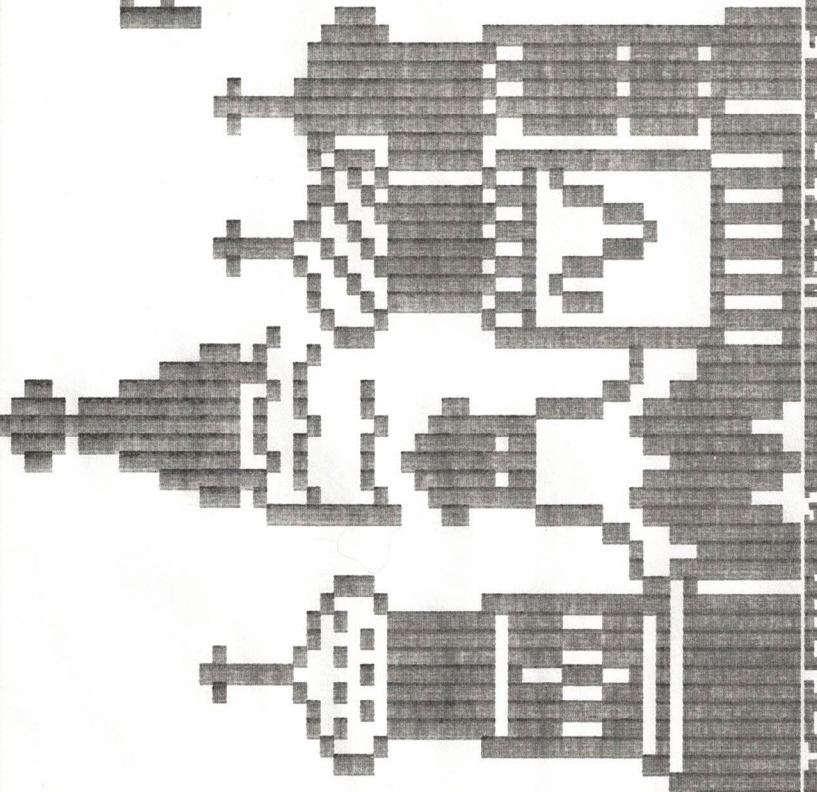


MICROWET 899 (C)

899-49187a  
XH3H11 feature  
OP ~

# FROTH FLUSH WIFE



When Andrew  
Kilgore went to  
Moscow as a  
student,  
marriage was  
the last thing  
on his mind.

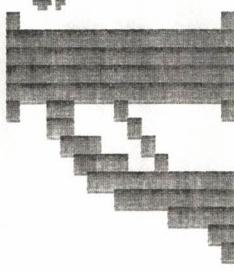
GOTO #

Index: 35 File: 5 House: 33

# MICROWET 800 (C) XTRA! Feature

80040187b SP

THE bus drove up to the huge buildings along massively wide roads, feeling for a moment like Gulliver ferrying migrants of the Brodbinagians.



Everything is on a gargantuan scale in Moscow, the skyline dominated by the "wedding cake" architecture of the Stalin period and the tower blocks of Kruzhchev's time, the streets as wide as valleys.

My home for a year, Moscow State University, brooding on the Lenin Hills, is perhaps the best architectural . . .

more . . .  
Brouse: 8  
Index: 3  
Mr.ite: 5

... example of Stalin's grand vision of the future.

Everything is huge except  
the people! small  
silvertoothed bureau-  
crats who bark at you  
whenever you need to go  
through a gate that  
requires a pass (which  
is often) or whenever  
you need to approach  
the pervasive bureaucracy  
for any of the  
many pieces of paper  
you need to live in the  
Soviet Union.

more . . . #

Index: 3  
Title: 3  
House Rule

HICROWET 899 (C)

89949187d  
XTRa! Feature

Especially formidable are the  
babushki (grannies) who bell-i-  
garrantingly trust their round  
girths at you and demand your  
papers.

And thus, a few years ago, I  
arrived at the university to  
study Russian. And what a stay  
it was!

Unless you lock yourself in  
your room it's impossible to  
live long in Moscow without  
being swept into a whirl of  
social activity. Within weeks  
I was spending my whole time . . .

more . . . #  
Browse: 8  
Index: 3  
Mrite: 5

MICROMET 899 (C)

89949187e 0P  
XTRA! Feature

...time rushing from one  
small social gathering to  
another.

From an exciting political  
cauldron to the  
opera; from an argument  
in the Lenin Library to a  
long queue waiting to see  
the latest Tarkovsky  
film; from a guided tour  
of the Kremlin to a  
"writers' village" miles  
out of Moscow to have a  
meal with a well-known,  
slightly suspect, Russian  
novelist. The latter . . .

Index: 3

Write: 5

more . . .  
Browse: #

MICROWAVE 899 (C)

899491874 0P  
XTRA! Feature

was an "illicit" trip  
since foreigners are not  
allowed to travel out of  
Moscow without permission.  
(The same restriction applies to Soviet visitors  
to London - XTRA Ed)

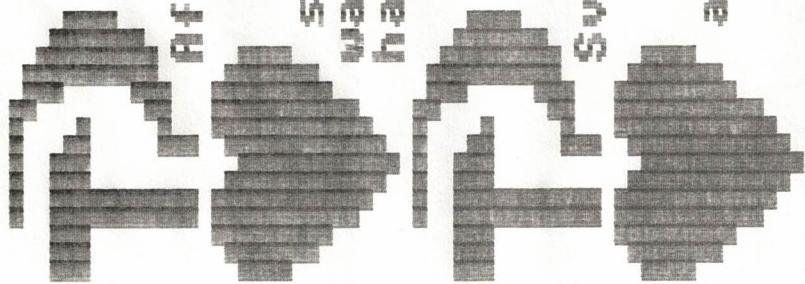
And then, the next day, to  
Peredelkino (the most  
famous writers' village)  
to meet Boris Pasternak's son. A week  
later I had the chance to visit the  
dissident, Medvedev, in his book-lined  
flat.

What a social whirl! Hardly any time . . .

more . . . ■  
Browse: 8  
Index: 3      Write: 5

HICROMET 899 (C)

899491879  
XTRA! Feature



... to sleep. Only the vodka  
to keep me going.

After being in Moscow a month, a  
real adventure began. The day  
before I'd been having tea with  
some French students. Among them  
was a young Russian girl whom I'd  
hardly noticed.

Arriving home late, my head  
swimming, I found a note under  
my door. It was from any sum I  
cared to my choice, if I would  
agree to a "white" marriage . . .

#  
more . . .  
Promise: 8  
Mr. ite: 5

Index: 3

MICROWET 888 (C)

00040187h  
XTRA! Feature

: with her. There was her phone number . . . nothing else.

It turned out that she, her sister and her mother wanted to leave the Soviet Union and had been trying to do so, without success, for several years.

They had been refused, partly because such wishes are often refused but mainly because there had been a scandal in France when the mother had fallen in love with a Frenchman and embarrassed the Soviets, especially because her . . .

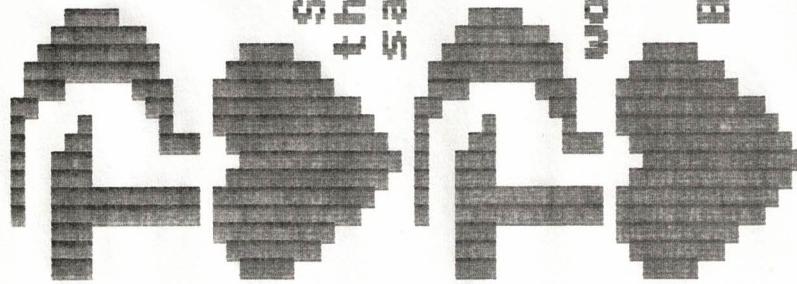
Index: 3

Write: 5

Browse: 3  
more: \*

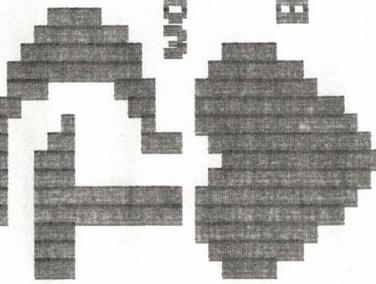
MICROWET 899 (C)

899491871  
XTRA! Feature



His husband was a KGB man attached to the Soviet Embassy in Paris.

They had been rushed back to Moscow in disgrace where Svetlana's father had disowned them and disappeared in order to save his own career.



His family had been living precariously ever since - the father denied permission to work and the family dependent on friends for money.

By marrying a foreigner . . .

Index: 3      Write: 5  
more: \*      Browse: \*

MICROWET 898 (C)

80040187j OP  
XTRR! Feature

... Svetlana hoped to apply pressure on the authorities to help the family leave. White marriages, as they are called, are often undertaken in the Soviet Union.

Always an impetuous man, I phoned the next day to arrange a meeting. Svetlana took me back to the family flat to meet her mother.

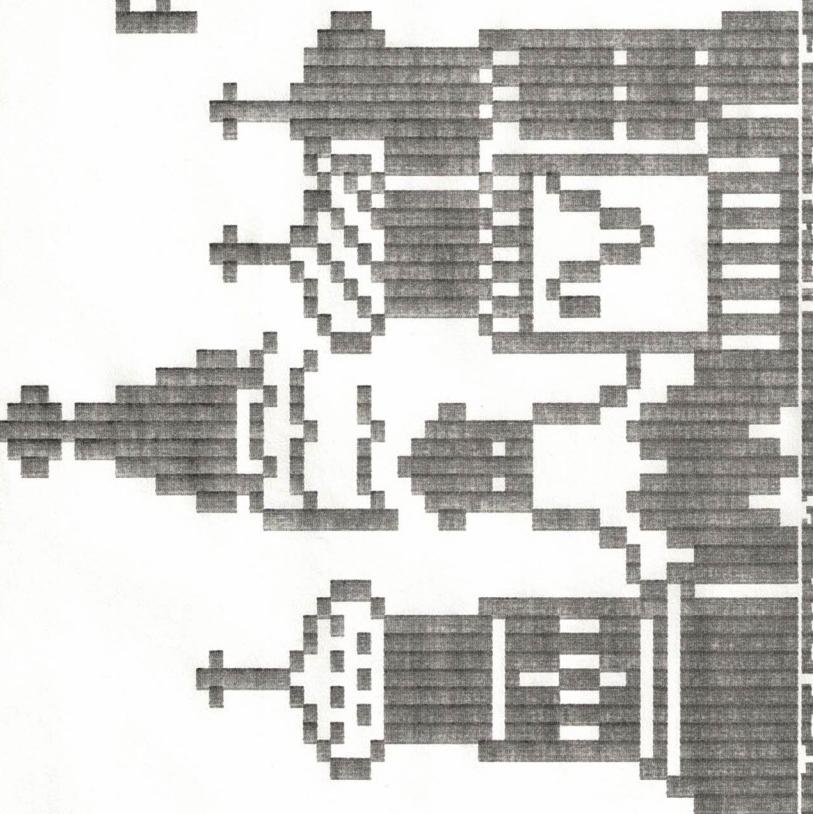
In whispered conversations held in the batheroom (yes, their flat was bugged) I agreed to marry Svetlana in order to...

more: \*  
Browse: 8  
Index: 3  
Write: 5

MICROWAVE 892 (C)

89040181a  
Kilgore's Adventure  
Top

# FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE



Part Two of  
Andrew  
Kilgore's  
Moscow  
Adventure.  
GOTO 2 if you  
missed Part One

GOTO #

Index: E WRITE: E INDEX: E BROWSE: E

# MICROWAVE XTR! Feature

80040181b

Op

**T**E HAVE all heard tales of bribery and corruption in the Soviet Union, but this was like an Eastern bazaar!

At every step of the way stood a little bureaucrat who needed bribing to push us a little further on the road to getting married.

We arrived at the office where we initially had to register with large bunches of flowers. What's more, we had to find out before, through the grapevine, what the woman's name was (yes . . .

more . . . #  
Index: 3      Mrite: 5  
Browse: 3

... most often the bureaucrats  
were women) and what her  
favourite flowers were.

The week after we had to  
attend before a different  
woman, the director  
of the Palace of  
Meddings, at his time  
with her favourite  
foreign perfume (bought  
in a dollar shop).

Our conversations with  
these people were so  
very polite but loaded  
with double meanings...

more: . . .  
Browse: 3

Article: 5

Index: 3

HICRONET 888 (C)

88848181d Op  
XTRA! Feature

... and Prevarication: we were  
always being "tried".

Thus, told to attend with  
certain papers, we would arrive  
and queue for three or four  
hours only to be told that a  
further paper was required.

The next day we would return  
with extra paper to find  
that the office was closed -  
they had forgotten to tell us!

Gradually, however, we wore  
them down. Having queued for  
what seemed to be months . . .

more . . . #  
Index: 3      Mritte: 5  
Browse: 8

MICROWAVE 300 (C)

80040181e 6P  
XTR! Feature

...we finally had a date,  
set for us. Just in time,  
as my visa was soon due  
to run out.

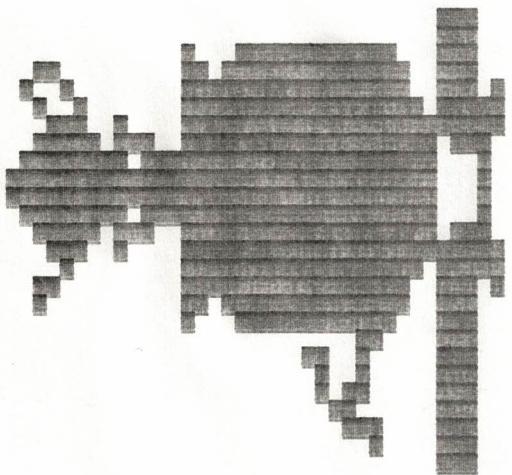
The strange this is that  
I'm sure they could have  
delayed us long enough to  
extract as much agony for  
us and fun (and goodness)  
for themselves before  
conceding.

I prefer, however, to . . .  
more . . . \*

Bronze: 8

White: 5

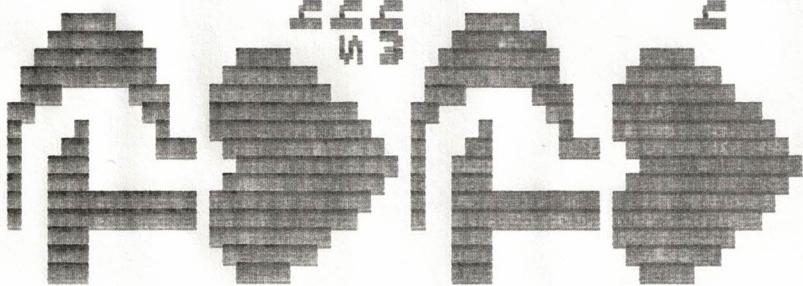
Grey: 3



I think, less cynically, that perhaps, in the recesses of their large bosoms, these women did feel some compassion. Russians are much more complex than they are given credit for.

Rules are for breaking and compassion is always a good reason for breaking them -- and everyone gets involved. For example, after I'd been in Moscow for several months I realised that you never believe anybody the first time. I remember going out to buy some food. The sign on the food . . .

more . . .  
Index: 3 Write: 5 Browse: 8



"Stal said Closed but the  
babushka was still there,  
counting the takings.

I asked for some sausages.  
"Closed," she said. "But I'm  
hungry," I replied. "Closed,"  
she said. At this point I did  
what any self-respecting Russian  
would do: I turned to her, a "passing  
woman" and said to her, "How  
can I eat? This woman won't  
sell me any food."

When I had collected a group of  
Russians and we all complained  
heartily that it was . . .

more . . .  
Browse: 8  
Index: 3  
Write: 5

HICRONET 898 (C)

XTRA! Feature op  
89949191h

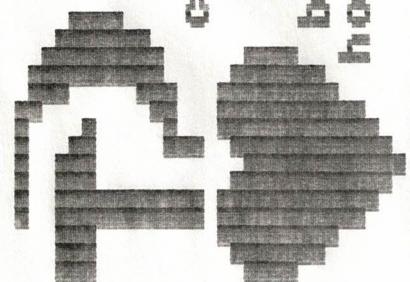
"inhuman" not to see I am  
shredded her shoulders gave up,  
asked "What do you want, young  
man?"

Then there's the schizophrenia  
of saying one thing and doing  
another. It certainly seemed  
clear that everyone knew the  
true nature of Svetlanas and  
talked directly about it.

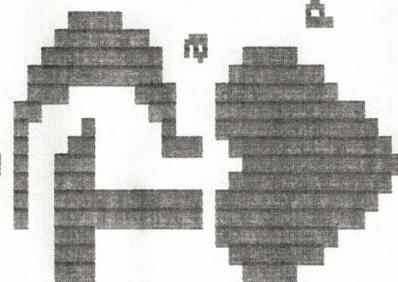
Everybody said "It's this-a  
relationship?" Or,  
"If you want to succeed you . . .  
affectionate" -

Index: 3 Write: 5

Browse: 8 #  
more . . .



"... my life is led in the Soviet Union. The whole of existence centres around dealing with the bureaucracy - getting what you can from it through bribery, but always pretending to lead an honest, incorruptible life.



The marriage at the Palace of Weddings was the most bizarre occasion. As we approached the doors they were flung open and a video camera homed in on us, remaining fixed on us through the entire ceremony. When we paid afterwards I noticed a . . .

Index: 3 Write: 5

more: . . .

Browse: 8

#

MICROWET 800 (C)

89940181j op  
XTRAI Feature

... charged for film, which surprised me.

"Why", I asked Svetlana, "did you order a photographer and video camera?"

"I didn't", she replied, "that was the KGB, "Good grief, I thought, if I might you is one thinking, but actually charging you for it is pure Monty Python

It was only at that point that I really took seriously the I degree to which I had been off interest to the KGB. After . . .

Index: 3

Write: 5

more: : : #  
Browse: 8

"To talking to Svetlana's uncle who has, over the years, been questioned by the KGB many times.

He related to me how, at the precise moment we arrived at the Palace of Weddings, he had again been pulled in and questioned.

"What sort of fellow is this please smart suit!" "Englishman?" he was asked. "Please enough; he seems to have a nice man.

Two days later my wife ran . . .

Index: 3      Mr.ite: 5  
Brownie: . . .  
#

HICCHOMET 800 (C)

899491811 SP  
XTRA! Feature

East-West Express . . .  
out-and I left Moscow on the

Of course, Swetlana could not come with me as she had to go through the bureaucratic process of applying to leave — and that's another long story!

Suffice it to say, that, some six months later, after my mother-in-law had gone on my hunger strike and the family — the French newspaper issued in three final letters, all in English — had become known to us in the . . . more . . .

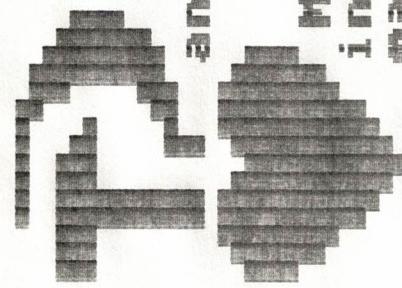
Index: 3

H

more . . .

HICROMET 800 (C)

## 30040181m Open XTRA! Feature



... Cameroun, Svetlana is working as an artist in Paris (getting very good reviews too) and her sister is currently in Cambridge learning English.

My only regret is that my time in Moscow was far too short and I may never get a chance to revisit a country which fascinates me. Talking about the people - they are amazing. And the more I think about it, the more I realise that small details are massive in stature, the Russians are massive in all other ways as the buildings of Moscow.

There is a complexity about them that only a Postovsky can hope to depict. Index: 3 Mr.ite: 5 Browse: 8